

# AN EVOLUTION IN WARFARE



## *Joint exercise provides vital training, exhibits interdependence*

**T**hrough a cloud of smoke, Staff Sgt. Paul Foles and his convoy watch for hostile movements in the village ahead of them. With guns raised, they move in while an F-16 Fighting Falcon flies low and loud overhead to break the will of the insurgents hiding in the village.

The joint terminal attack controller moves with his convoy to a stronger fighting position before calling in another air strike. The group spots snipers on a rooftop. Chaos erupts. Enemy fire, ground bursts, anti-aircraft artillery and surface-to-air missile explosions make visibility limited and create a literal depiction of the “fog of war.”


by Staff Sgt. Shad Eidson

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Traditional warfare is evolving. Tomorrow’s military — which will be even more interdependent — will go to war with better weapons. Those include the better awareness, detection and instant communications needed to deliver concentrated and precision strikes.

“The interdependent fight calls for exquisite situation awareness; the goal must be to integrate the latest technology to deliver spherical situation awareness to every warrior on the battlefield,” Secretary of the Air Force Michael W. Wynne said. “The kill cycle can thus be cut to minutes and possibly seconds, from the detect to the assessment.”

To refine this cycle, 700 Airmen, Marines, Soldiers and Sailors gathered in Avon Park, Fla., in October to participate in the U.S. Central Command Air Force’s semi-annual training exercise — Atlantic Strike. The exercise is the only one of its kind — providing joint air and ground crews with realistic training in urban close-air support, intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance. 



**To provide real-time air support,** Airman 1st Class Justin Fuchs (left) conducts a radio check on a mobile Humvee radio unit that helps facilitate communications between joint tactical air controllers and close air support units. An AH-1W Super Cobra helicopter from a Marine Expeditionary Unit provides urban CAS against simulated insurgents in support of controllers facing heavy fire.





## Soldiers and Airmen mobilize

(clockwise from left) to combat against insurgents during the predeployment training event Atlantic Strike IV at Avon Park, Fla. Army Pvt. Brian Eatmon returns fire against simulated insurgents. Staff Sgt. Paul Foles, a joint tactical air controller, provides information to Army Spc. Emanuel Bluebird on close air support coordinates. A team of Airmen and Soldiers cordon and search a simulated hostile environment.





**Returning fire from simulated insurgents** (clockwise from left), Senior Airman Justin Prinski and his patrol team attempt to rescue a hostage during Atlantic Strike IV, at Avon Park, Fla. A gunner of an AH-1W Super Cobra helicopter provides close-air support for Soldiers and Airmen combating insurgents in a mock village. Insurgents surrender thanks in part to the successful communications between air and ground controllers.